is the organ by which the blood-globules are formed; as he has found that the blood of the splenic vein (previous to its junction with the vena portæ and veins of the stomach) contains a quantity of globules, inferior not merely to arterial, but even to the average of that contained in venous blood generally. On the other hand, the proportion of albumen is increased.

The examination of the blood of the vena portæ shows a very large proportion of globules, and a corresponding diminution of the albumen, as is clearly shown by the following table:—

	Venous Blood from Jugular Vein.	Arterial Blood.	Blood of the Splenic Vein.	Blood of the Vena Portæ.
Water, ...	778·9	750·6	746·3	702·3
Albumen, ...	79·4	89·5	124·8	70·6
Globules and Fibrin, .	141.72	159·9	128·9	227·1

The author has established the fact, that though the constitution of venous blood varies, that of the arterial blood is constant in every part of the arterial system.

M. Beclard is still engaged in the prosecution of these experiments; and his present communication appears to be merely the announcement of an extended investigation, which, should the first results be borne out, is likely to throw an important light on the functions of the abdominal organs.—*Monthly Journ. and Retrospect Med. Sci.*, Feb. 1848, from *Annales de Chemie et de Phys.*, Dec. 1847.

7. *Double Vagina and Uterus.*—Mr. John Birkett exhibited to the Pathological Society of London (Dec. 6) a specimen of double vagina and uterus from a woman, æt. 50, who had been married, but never bore children, and had died from pneumonia and pericarditis. The vagina was completely divided in the mesian line by a strong, dense, fibrous septum, extending from the external opening to the uterus. Thus two vaginæ existed: each vagina led to a distinct os uteri, both of which were small. The neck of the uterus was rather longer than usual; the body smaller. The uterus itself was nearly divided into two cavities by a septum in the mesian line. The ovaries, Fallopian tubes, and ligaments, were involved in one general adherent mass of old standing. The Fallopian tubes were pervious for some distance from the uterus.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Dec. 1847.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

8. *Properties and Test of the Purity of Chloroform.*—The following are given in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, as the properties of pure chloroform, and as the test of its purity.

1. "That pure chloroform, applied to the skin or mucous membrane, produces simple redness, without cauterization or vesication. It acquires, however, caustic properties when mixed with a small quantity of absolute alcohol.

2. "That the chloroform used in medical practice, which has caused vesication of the lips or nostril, with irritation of the bronchial tubes, could not have been pure.

3. "That this chloroform contains a certain quantity of anhydrous alcohol. The presence of this liquid in chloroform was suspected by MM. Soubeiran and Gerdy, and it has been demonstrated by analysis. The alcohol may act by combining with and coagulating the albuminous fluids of the body, and thus giving rise to the local effects of irritation.

"Hence, before using chloroform vapour in surgical practice, it is indispensably necessary to ascertain whether it be pure. M. Mialhe finds that the following is

a very delicate test of the presence of alcohol in chloroform:—Place some distilled water in a tube or glass, and drop on it a small quantity of chloroform. The grearer part sinks immediately to the bottom of the vessel, owing to its great density, (sp. gr. 1·48.) A small quantity floats by repulsion, but may be made to fall in small globules by agitation. If the chloroform be pure, it remains transparent at the bottom of the vessel; but if it contain only a small portion of alcohol, the globules acquire a milky opacity."—*Lancet*, Jan. 8, 1848.

9. *Carvacrol a Cure for Toothache.*—Dr. Bushnan in a notice in the *Med. Times*, (Jan. 8, 1848,) on the progress of German Medical Science, states that this article applied on a piece of cotton to a decayed tooth, gives immediate relief.

Carvacrol (C^{26} H^{18} O^2 = HOC^{26} H^{17} O), according to Prof. Schweitzer, is formed by the action of potassa, iodine, or hydrated phosphoric acid, upon oleum carui, ol. thymi; and, according to Claus, by the action of iodine upon camphor. Schweitzer has shown that the product from camphor is the same as that obtained from the oil of caraway.

Preparation.—I. Ol. carui is to be distilled with hydrated phosphoric acid. The liquid that passes over is to be poured back into the retort until it no longer retains the smell of the oil of caraway. The carvacrol separates itself in the form of an oil from the phosphoric acid.

II. In the same way a saturated solution of iodine must be distilled with oil of caraway until no more hydriodic acid is formed. The red mass which remains in the retort must be operated upon by potash. The yellow solution is to be distilled. Carvene (C^{10} H^8) passes over, and the carvacrol remains. It is to be purified by redistillation.

III. Equal parts of camphor and iodine are to be rubbed together and distilled until no red vapour is given off. The black mass remaining in the retort contains carbon, resin, camphine, colophyne, iodine, and carvacrol; that in the receiver, camphine, colophene, carvacrol, and a little iodine and hydriodic acid, which, on standing, separates into two layers. The upper layer is to be distilled, and at 180° camphine passes over, while colophene and carvacrol remain. This is to be acted on by potash. The carvacrol may be obtained from the alkaline solution by the action of an acid and by distillation over purified lime.—(Claus).

Carvacrol is an oily liquid, very similar to creasote, with a very unpleasant smell and strong taste.

10. *On the Purgative Effects of Scammony, and of Resin of Scammony, compared with those of Resin of Jalap.*—Dr. A. Willemin has published in the *Archives Générales* (Aug. 1848), an account of some interesting experiments on this subject, instituted in the wards of M. Rayer. From these experiments, 210 in number, M. W. deduces the following conclusions:

1st. Aleppo scammony (of good quality), in a dose of 16 grains, usually procures three or four evacuations.

2d. There is no danger in raising the dose to ℈j or gr. xxiv; the purgative effect is not increased, and is often less than that produced by 16 grains.

3d. The administration of the medicine with an acid, or the use of an acid drank afterwards, has no apparent effect.

4th. The addition of an alkali does not render the action more energetic.

5th. The *resin of scammony*, in a dose of eight grains, produces about the same purgative effect as 16 grains of scammony. The administration of 16 grains, is followed by less active purgation, which diminishes still further on raising the dose to ℈j, or gr. xxiv.

6th. The resin of scammony is more liable to excite a sensation of heat in the stomach and about the anus, than that of jalap.

7th. The resin of scammony, in a dose of eight grains, is an excellent purgative. As we cannot foretell the amount of resin in the scammony of commerce, the resin itself is much to be preferred medicinally.

8th. The resin of jalap, in a dose of eight grains, purges as effectually as a similar quantity of resin of scammony.

11. *Muriate of Opium.*—Dr. J. G. Nichol gives the following formula for this pre-